The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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I hall the labor movement. It is my only hope for democracy.—Wendell Phillips.

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STRIKERS ARE DENIED EQUALITY BEFORE LAW

The New York legislature has decreed that the attorney for a defendant in a criminal case shall state his defense after the state has presented its case. Judge McIntyre of New York city says the act "is clearly unconstitutional."

"The Constitutions of the United States and New York," the court said, "do not presume that a man is guilty or that he will have to offer any defense until the state has produced evidence sufficient to have a jury pass upon the merits of the case."

Judge McIntyre's plea for fundamental rights is ignored by the labor injunction judge.

Prior to a comparatively few years ago, court orders, known as the injunction or the equity process, were not used to interfere with personal rights or to apply in cases where the plaintiff had other legal remedies.

The purpose of the injunction is to defend property rights—to secure justice—only after all other remedies fail. Then the plaintiff may appear before a judge with a plea for relief.

With the development of industry, tricky lawyers and usurping judges brought strikers under the equity process by claiming that property is injured.

The right to cease work and permit others to do likewise is ignored because, the plaintiff avers, his business is injured.

This exaltation of the dollar over human rights permits the judge to set aside guarantees assured every citizen. The next step is to bring the striker before the judge and compel him to prove he has not violated the court order.

This permits the judge to try the case, to pass judgment and to pronounce sentence.

The court justifies his action by pointing out that the worker has not been denied fundamental guarantees because he was not punished under criminal proceedings, but by the equity process; that he was not charged with violating law, but of violating a court order not to violate law.

This sharp practice can be expected from those who defend injustice. They dare not discuss the issue from the standpoint of human rights and the original purpose of the injunction process.

As usual, they becloud the issue. More than this, they untruthfully charge that labor asks special privilege before the courts of our land.

Trade unionists ask opponents to discuss the principle involved. The injunction should be used as originally intended. When workers are accused of violating law, give them the same rights as other citizens.

This system does not have the strike-breaking value of the labor injunction, but it will prove that in this land of the free all men are equal before the law.

CHILD NIGHT WORKERS CAUSE STATE SURVEY

Charlotte, N. C., May 1.—"The employment of women and children in night work in southern cotton mills is more than a social mistake, it is an economic crime and should be prevented by the state," said Robert Lassiter, cotton mill operator and a member of the directorate of the Richmond Federal Reserve Bank.

Mr. Lassiter said he has congratulated Governor McLean upon his decision to have an investigation made of plants employing women and children.

"The result of night work by women and children, even though the children be of legal age, can not be justified by morals or common sense," said Mr. Lassiter.

"The fixed policy of running the mills at night, and using women and children in them for such work can have but one result, and that will be harmful, vitiating and destructive to the industry itself.

"It is the economic blunder and crime of the thing, the antibusiness phase of it, that has impressed me. I am opposed to it and will be delighted to have the cover torn off the situation as now exists in the state and throughout the south. It will be the salvation of the cotton manufacturing industry itself, if the elimination of this primal cause of all its evils can be brought about."

The governor's decision to order a probe followed long agitation by various women's organizations and trade unions of this state.

The agitation was renewed when cotton mill owners refused to let Professor the University of North Carolina to survey conditions in mill villages of the state.

WOULD LEASE MUSCLE SHOALS HINT OF ANOTHER OIL SCANDAL

Washington, May 1.—The Muscle Shoals joint congressional committee has divided on which private interest shall be handed this priceless water power.

The majority favor a bid by the Muscle Shoals Power Distributing Company and the Muscle Shoals Fertilizer Company. Behind these organizations loom the Alabama Power Company, the Electric Bond and Share Company and the electric trust, officially known as the General Electric Company.

In his minority report, Congressman James hints of another Teapot Dome scandal.

"Reputations by the score were sunk in the oil of the Teapot Dome scandal," said the Michigan congressman. "Let us hope history will not repeat itself and that other reputations will not be lost in the waters of Muscle Shoals."

Mr. James savagely attacked the Alabama Power Company as "a gang of cheap tricksters in their dealings with the United States." He scored the majority recommendation as a "monstrosity of a proposal," as "outrageous" and as "a power proposition disguised as a fertilizer proposal."

The James report included the serious charge that the committee resorted to "mental telepathy" to tip the successful bidder off in advance, giving it an unfair advantage.

To placate farmers, the successful bidder agreed to annually produce 40,000 tons of nitrogen in the form of concentrated fertilizer and to limit its profit to 8 per cent on cost. There is no guarantee that the government and the company can agree on how "cost" will be determined.

When the majority report comes before congress it will be opposed by rival companies who lost this prize. A greater opposition, however, is the group of senators, led by Mr. Norris of Nebraska, who will contest the majority report on principle. They oppose turning this water power over to any private interest.

It is agreed that final action can not be taken at this session of congress. Even friends of the majority report are not prepared to accept the report. In view of the fall elections hints of another Teapot Dome scandal, and a vote in favor of private leasing would be unwise, from a political standpoint.

SENATE ORDERS FEDERAL JUDGE TO ANSWER CHARGES BY HOUSE

Washington, May 1.—The senate has ordered Judge George W. English of the Eastern Illinois district to answer charges of usurpation of power, tyranny and oppression and other "high misdemeanors" in office.

The house impeached Judge English, after a three-days' debate, by a vote of 306 to 62. The case is now before the senate, which will act as a trial court. Each senator and the vice president take a special oath to qualify them to sit as judge. The prosecutors will be a committee of the house, called "managers." When Judge English appears before the senate he will be given time to answer the charges. The "managers" will reply.

During the 1922 shop men's strike Judge English issued numerous injunctions against these workers and even threatened to oust duly elected officials of cities and towns in his district. Similar treatment was accorded attorneys who appeared before him, and he caused funds of bankrupt firms to be placed in banks in which he was interested.

The Bar Association of East St. Louis refused to pass a resolution calling on Judge English to refrain from continuing on the bench while charges against him was pending. When this resolution was before the association lawyers stated that they knew Judge English was unfit to sit on the bench, and that they believed the charges, but they did not want to go to jail. The resolution was not passed and all discussion of the subject was expunged from the minutes.

CHINESE FIND BOYCOTT MORE POTENT THAN WAR

Chicago, May 1.—The Chinese find that the boycott is more civilized than warfare, said Dr. Ping Wen Kuo of Columbia University in an address on China and her problems before a group of trade unionists in this city.

"When we retaliated after Japan had mistreated us, we discovered that nation's trade dropped one-third of its normal value," said Dr. Kuo. "When we used the boycott upon in Hong Kong, the loss there was about $1,200,000 a day. Non-cooperation is also quite effective. Refusal to work for British and Japanese, when they needed service the most, had its effect."

Dr. Kuo told of the many indignities that have been heaped upon the Chinese people in nearly three-quarters of a century by western powers. These indignities include the opium trade that was forced on China, denial of the right to govern herself and the division of her territory by profit-seeking imperialists.

"The Chinese today are determined to recover rights they lost during the past four or five decades," said Dr. Kuo. "They desire entertainment to have an independent government. They want treaty revision to regain that which has been unjustly taken from them.

"These treaties are oppressive because they were signed immediately after China was defeated. They were not in keeping with western laws. Furthermore, foreigners are not subject to Chinese laws.

"What would Americans think if they had no right to punish foreigners for crime? What a state of affairs! In Shanghai, for instance, Chinese constitute 98 per cent of the population. Still, they are denied any representation. Justice works but one way. How did such a deplorable state of affairs come about? The answer is that it is not a question of right or wrong, it is a question of might.

"China was not consulted when the opium trade was forced upon her.

"We highly appreciate increasing public sentiment in the United States for China and her troubles. We also appreciate that the A. F. of L. has taken a friendly interest. Of course, the usual exceptions are those hard-boiled people who have big interests in China and therefore find it to their disadvantage to lend any help to China. The more China is helped the less they realize. That's Japan's position, also.

"We want both justice and love. But we are satisfied if we get a little less love and a little more justice."

WIRE MEN'S PENSION AIDS AGED MEMBERS

Chicago, May 1.—A pension system for its aged members has been adopted by Electrical Workers' union No. 134.

Members must belong to No. 134 for 15 years, and be affiliated with the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 20 years before they are entitled to a pension of $50 a month after the age of 65 years.

For five years prior to 65, or when a member reaches the age of 60, he will be permitted to work for a wage rate under the union scale which is agreed to by the member, the employer and the union.

It is believed that this is the first time in the history of the Chicago trade union movement that a local union has launched an old-age pension plan.

TRADE UNION FOES WOULD "BURY" BILL

Trenton, N. J., May 1.—Organized labor saved its anti-injunction bill from being buried by enemies in the state assembly. This old trick was exposed by the vigilant unionists. The senate passed the bill and when it came over to the assembly it was referred to the committee on miscellaneous bills, of which Assemblyman Stratton of Gloucester county is chairman. Ten minutes later the bill was "lost." Mr. Stratton denied all knowledge of it, but finally acknowledged it was in his possession. He became indignant at the persistance of organized labor and the workers were rebuked for "interfering and preventing me from properly performing my legislative duties."

The bill was finally reported and passed the assembly. Then Mr. Stratton assured Secretary F. Hilfers, secretary of the New Jersey State Federation of Labor, that "I was always in favor of this bill, and always am a friend of labor, but somehow or other the bill got mislaid or stolen and I could not locate it."

Hilfers asked him how could the bill be found so quickly when the plot was exposed.

Mr. Stratton is worried over the mess he made of things because he is the candidate for sheriff of his county. The unionists have notified him that his constituents will be informed of his alleged "friendship for labor."

TRIAL RIGHTS IMMUNE SAYS NEW YORK COURT

New York, May 1.—Judge McIntyre, in general sessions court, challenged the constitutionality of the Baumes crimes bills, recently passed by the legislature, which would compel counsel for the defendant to make his opening address to the jury following the presentation of the State's case by the prosecution.

This law does not take effect until July 1, but Judge McIntyre expressed the belief that it was unconstitutional.

"The Constitutions of the United States and the State of New York do not presume that a man is guilty or that he will have to offer any defense until the state has produced sufficient evidence to have a jury pass upon the merits of the case," said Judge McIntyre.

"In fact," continued the court, "a defendant is never required to make an opening address at all, even if, in the opinion of the presiding judge, a sufficient case has been presented to warrant conviction unless a defense is offered."

The court let it be understood that the legislature can not take these rights from accused persons.

"The act is clearly unconstitutional," he said.

COAL BARONS RULED BY BANK INTERESTS

Washington, May 1.—Testifying before a house committee, officers of the United Mine Workers of America said that railroads and banking interests that know nothing of mining coal are the power behind anthracite operators in wage negotiations.

The unionists objected to legislation which has arbitration as its goal.

Spokesmen for the miners were Vice President Murray and Secretary-Treasurer Kennedy. They did not object to a government fact-finding bureau if miners are given representation that they may be assured information is "compiled from the standpoint of aiding in correcting abuses and basic evils in the industry."

The unionists' summary of factors in the bituminous industry included:

Elimination of uneconomic and unscientific freight rates. Conspiracies between railroads to force uneconomic coal prices for railroad fuel.

Reasons for certain railroad and public utility boycotts of union-mined coal.

Facts that will determine the relative efficiency of all bituminous coals.

Determine the ability of these mines to use advanced mining methods, and the financial ability of these mines to decrease costs by the mechanization of such mines.

Sales costs, interlocking relationships of companies and sales agencies to determine the profit on coal produced and sold.

All other facts that will enable collective bargaining and scientific management to remedy evils of overdevelopment, unprofitable sales prices, promote efficiency and assure continuous employment and the lowest possible coal price to consumers consistent with an American-standard wage rate.

TEXTILE WORKERS UNITE

New Bedford, Mass., May 1.—A new local has been chartered by the United Textile Workers and a house-to-house canvass is being made for members.

ELECTROTYPERS GAIN

Fort Wayne, Ind., May 1.—Electrotypers are raised wages $3 a week and advanced rates for apprentices. The 44-hour week will prevail.

OPPOSE CONVENTION

Cincinnati, May 1.—By a vote of nearly 10 to 1, members of the International Molders' union declared against holding a convention.

LABORERS WANT MORE

Aurora, Ill., May 1.—The Building Laborers' union wants wages increased 9 and 15 cents an hour.

JOE BISHOP RETIRES; IS HONORED UNIONIST

Columbus, Ohio, May 1.—"Joe" Bishop, first president of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, has retired to private life. He is 87 years old. He says he will "take a long rest."

For several years he has been connected with the adjutant general's department in the state house. Prior to that he served for two decades as the labor member of the Ohio state board of arbitration.

More than half a century ago he was president of the Sons of Vulcan, an Iron Puddler's union in Pittsburgh. He took a leading part in uniting the iron and steel workers into the present Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers and served as its first president. He is well known to old-time trade unionists.

DIRECTORS' FUNCTION TO ACCEPT RAIL PASSES

New York, May 1.—Influential business men are placed on boards of directors of railroads merely to get passes, said John D. Ryan of the Anaconda Copper Company, testifying at the Interstate Commerce Commission's hearing on the wrecked Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad.

The witness said that he was placed on the directorate of the Gary railroad, when it was taken over by the Milwaukee road, as a "courtesy."

He was asked if he believed it was a good policy for men to be placed on a board of directors merely to get passes?

"It is generally done by railroads," was the reply.

MILK DRIVERS GAIN

Rochester, N. Y., May 1.—The Milk Drivers' union has raised wages $2.a week and reduced the work week from seven to six days.

Non-union drivers, who stood aside while the fight was being made, are joining the union.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Casper, Wyo., May 1.—The annual convention of the Wyoming State Federation of Labor will convene in this city beginning June 14.

EFFICIENT WORKERS AMAZE BRITISHERS

Washington, May 1.—While American business men affect a fear of European competition, British business men are amazed at the "greatly increased efficiency of production" in the United States.

The British view is summarized by the Department of Commerce on a report by officers of the Federated British Industries, following their recent tour of this country. The Britishers say America's production system means "an immense competition which we must expect from the United States in world markets."

The British visitors then find that "there is a nation-wide striving for efficiency and improved methods of utilizing a high wage scale, both to date"—a more rapid increase in the efficiency of production than in the number of wage earners employed. The latter condition is attributable in part, in their opinion, to the spread of general and labor-saving education, in part to the high wages and high output of workers and use of labor-saving devices.

"LUDLOW MASSACRE" RECALLED BY MINERS

Denver, May 1.—The twelfth anniversary of the "Ludlow Massacre," on April 20, 1914, was observed by members of District 15, United Mine Workers, who placed a wreath on the monument to mark the death of 11 children, two women and five men.

The miners were on strike against the Colorado Fuel and Iron company, one of the Rockefeller properties. Gun men wearing the uniform of the state militia opened fire on the tent colony, which had been set up by the union when the strikers were evicted from company houses.

Machine guns riddled the tents, which were afterward set on fire. When the strike ended the company formed a company "union," which was the forerunner of the system of so-called employee representation that many anti-union corporations now favor.

"LEFT WINGERS" FAIL

Toronto, Ontario, May 1.—Seceders from the Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America will not be recognized by the Canadian National Telegraph System.

The management has informed officers of the union that the contract between them will be observed.

MINERS EVICTED

Pursglove, W. Va., May 1.—The Cleveland-Morgantown Coal company has served eviction notices on miners who refuse to accept their low-wage conditions. Throwing these families out on the public highway is considered part of the business of these West Virginia corporations.

NEVER-SAY-DIE SPIRIT CONQUERS UNION FOE

Camden, N. J., May 1.—After long opposition to the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union, the Eskin cloak company has signed an agreement with that organization.

The company assisted employers in contests with the union and moved from city to city, as the union interested its employes in collective action. It located in Camden three months ago, and the union again started its campaign.

Weary of the contest, the company signed a union shop agreement and has deposited a large sum of money for the faithful performance of the contract.

BAKERY KING SUED

New York, May 1.—William B. Ward and several associates have been sued for $4,547,335 by the stockholders' committee of the General Baking Corporation. It is alleged that at the request of Ward, and without submission to the board of directors, checks in this amount were given by the president and treasurer of the corporation.

Injunction Judges Are Cautious Before Growing Popular Wrath

New Bedford, Mass., May 1.—The fear of popular election of judges and a growing belief in the value of collective action among the workers is causing judges to issue fewer labor injunctions, said Charles L. Reed, educational director of the Salem Central Labor Union, in an address to the local Central Labor Union.

Tracing the development of statutory law and court decisions in this state, Mr. Reed said that in 1842 Chief Justice Shaw, one of the great jurists in New England's history, recognized the right of workers to organize. That decision was issued 20 years before trade unions received legislative approval in England, and more than 50 years before they received it in the United States.

That ruling, continued Mr. Reed, legalized collective bargaining and set aside the theory that unions were a conspiracy.

"The right to organize and bargain collectively exists, legally, but the power of trade unions has been curtailed by court decision," said Mr. Reed.

"While it is legal to strike, courts have enjoined workers from carrying on strikes because of illegal acts. In other words, if the union engages in a legal strike the court rules that the strike is conducted illegally.

"If the union has legal pickets, the court rules that they perform illegally. If the union asks recognition from employers, the court rules that they make an illegal demand. If the union strikes to protect members discharged, the court rules that the union commits an illegal act.

"If the union tries to increase its membership in competition with the individual contract, the union is acting illegally. So say the courts.

"Labor law and judicial opinion in the United States are still vague and conflicting. The rights of organized labor differ greatly between the various states and even in the same state a perplexing conflict is often found.

The result is that the terms strike, boycott and picketing are not standardized and a puzzling uncertainty surrounds collective action by workers.

"Unless there is equality in bargaining for wages between employer and employe no longer exists. The fact is, of course, that modern industry has been largely de-humanized.

"The employer today is the modern corporation possessing vast capital, the best expert advice obtainable and dominated by ideals of efficiency and success.

"The employes are persons collected in large numbers under one management, confined to special tasks determined by a minute subdivision of labor, and driven by forces regardless of uninteresting processes, the significance of which, in the large purposes of the employer, they are not expected or intended to know, and oppressed by the consciousness of the dependent position which such conditions of labor produce.

"Individually, the workers are almost as powerless to secure recognition of their personal needs as a single cog in one of the complicated machines which they work.

"Their only hope is in combination. Judges, courts and the state must recognize these facts and interpret laws accordingly."

TECHNICAL WORKERS WILL EXPAND UNION

Washington, May 1.—An organizing campaign that will include all technical men was launched by the annual convention of the International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's unions. Particular attention will be given technical men holding civil service employment in municipalities.

The convention condemned the Union Labor Life Insurance company and recommended that locals and individual members give favorable consideration to this co-operative movement.

It was voted to affiliate with the Workers' Education Bureau and to subscribe to the A. F. of L. Union Label Trades Department organizing fund.

"The outlook for the International Federation was never more promising," said President Redmond. "Technical men see the advantages of unity. They realize that even though they are classed as 'professional men,' they must use the same methods as other employes who work for wages if they are to improve conditions."

ANOTHER POWER GRAB

Washington, May 1.—Private water power exploiters are asking congress to abstract several thousand acres from the Yellowstone National park and hand them over to the state of Idaho. This land includes the cascade canyon of the park, which would be harnessed for commercial purposes.

Advocates of the plan plead that the state of Idaho needs the "no precedent" when other exploiters ask for similar courtesies.

APPEAL TO COOLIDGE FOR RAIL LABOR ACT

Washington, May 1.—Executives of five leading railroad systems called on President Coolidge in behalf of the Watson-Parker railroad bill that is intended to provide machinery for adjusting disputes. The railroads represented were the New York Central, Baltimore & Ohio, Illinois Central, Pennsylvania & Nashville and the Norfolk & Western.

The bill passed the house more than a month ago. It is urged by the standard organizations of railroad employes and by a majority of railroad executives. The opposition includes farmers' organizations and the National Association of Manufacturers, who insist that the Interstate Commerce Commission pass on wage increases.

In a statement presented to the president, the visiting railroad executives said the interests of the public "are more fully safeguarded by the provisions of the pending bill than they have ever been before."

OPPOSE ANTI-STRIKE LAW

Denver, May 1.—Trade union opposition to Colorado's anti-strike law is increasing. Under this act workers can not suspend work until they give 30 days' notice to the State Industrial Commission.

The State Federation of Labor has repeatedly denounced the law. The Denver Typographical union, it is stated, is considering having its delegates to the coming international convention attack the legality of the law.

Friends of the law would extend it to other states, and President Green of the A. F. of L. has notified officers of the State Federation of Labor that this will be opposed.

WHAT PRICE "FREEDOM"?

While a representative of the National Association of Manufacturers was assuring North Carolina citizens that New England is losing textile mills because of organized labor, Governor McLean was ordering a probe of the night work of women and children in North Carolina cotton mills.

These mills are unorganized. They have a free hand to exploit women and children, who are forced to labor during the night.

This is an ideal condition, from the N. A. of M. standpoint.

The N. A. of M. man recalled the adage: "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread." While he was talking within 30 miles of the North Carolina capital, the governor agreed to investigate the claim of many citizens that the policy of these anti-union operators is an economic wrong and a social evil that will bring disaster to the state.

What price "freedom"?

UNIONISM IS NOT LABORATORY FOR EVERY WILD EXPERIMENT

New York, May 1.—The trade union movement "is not a laboratory where you may experiment with different theories and plans," said Wm. Green, president of the A. F. of L., in addressing striking fur workers in this city.

"Trade unionism," he said, "is a practical movement which holds fast to what it has secured and is going on to gain more and greater objectives."

In referring to the tendency of the younger element to often be impatient, President Green said he appreciated this impatience, but youth has not experienced the conditions under which older trade unionists had worked.

In pleading for harmony between workers, he said nothing pleased the enemies of labor better than to see "the family of labor torn by dissension and hate."